



THE RICE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Spring 2022

PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS → Rice County Historical Society

New name of our organization GIG Genealogy Interest Group

1814 NW 2nd Ave

Faribault, MN 55021

Rice County Historical Society (RCHS) website: rchistory.org

RCHS phone: 507-332-2121

Rice Gleanings: past issues online at <archive.org> search "Rice County Genealogical Society"

The next program held at the Rice County Historical Society will be on March 31 at 7 pm

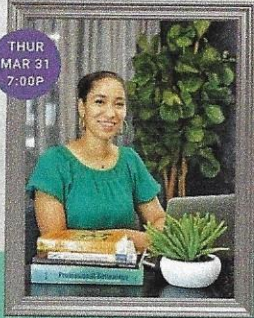
"Early African Americans in Southeast Minnesota" presented by Mica Anders

Reservations are encouraged call 507-332-2121

According to the census, Rice County has had African American residents here since before we were a state. The Adam family is listed in the 1857 census as being "Free Colored". Over the next 25 years, more than 75 African Americans – former slaves, runaways, and those born free, called Rice County home. The Rice County Historical Society was one of the 11 county historical societies that worked with Anders on her research and she will talk about us and other early residents of our corner of the state.

History Talk

Early African Americans
in Southeast Minnesota



THUR
MAR 31
7:00P

Learn about some of the early African American residents of Southeast Minnesota.

This talk accompanies the exhibit created during the History Fellowship at the Minnesota African American Heritage Museum and Gallery.

The stories presented are a small sampling of the many that have been found to date (and will focus on those from Rice County).

They represent the various reasons people came to Southeast Minnesota, show where they worked, describe the lives they lived, and note how they were treated in their communities.

Talk will be held at:
Rice County Historical Society
 1814 NW 2nd Ave
 Faribault, MN 55021

For more info visit: www.rchistory.org
 or call 507-332-2121

Anders
GENEALOGICAL SERVICES

In this Issue

2 Changes to the Rice County Genealogical Society and The Plan

4 In Fond Memory of Charles "Chuck" DeMann

4 A Little History of Rice County Genealogical Society and Earliest Records of the Northfield Genealogy Club

7 The 1950 Census

Changes to the Rice County Genealogical Society

At a meeting of the Rice County Genealogical Society on September 20, 2021, our President/Secretary wished to withdraw as President/Secretary. We were at that time without a Vice President and Treasurer. Three plans were then considered for moving forward

1. Search for new Officers. No one was willing to take on these responsibilities.
2. Abolish the Rice County Genealogy Society
3. Merge with the Rice County Historical Society, provided they would accept us as members, allowing us with one vote on their board.

After further discussion it was voted, with a quorum present, to attempt the merger with the Rice County Historical Society and aim for the merger by January 2022.

Sue Garwood, Executive Director of the Rice County Historical Society and also a member of the Rice County Genealogical Society, had talked with the Historical Society Board about this option asking if they will agree to a one-year trial and if the Genealogy group does their part in keeping up their end. The Historical Society wishes to have a written contract outlining each group's responsibilities.

A working committee of members of the Genealogy Society was established to develop this plan to present to the Historical Society. We have met and developed The Plan to take to the Historical Society

The Plan

The purpose of this document is to formalize the integration of the Rice County Genealogical Society (RCGS) as an entity of the Rice County Historical Society (RCHS). As such, the RCGS shall henceforth be known as the Genealogy Interest Group of Rice County (GIG). Its focus shall be to educate, share and help individuals in their quest for their ancestry and family history information.

Upon signing this document, the following organization changes will be in effect for a period of one year:

1. The date of this merger will be effective January 14, 2022.
2. Membership in the RCGS will be terminated, and each current member will be canvassed as to their desire to join the RCHS. [*about half of RCGS members are already members of RCHS*]
3. Membership in The Rice County Historical Society is \$25 for senior individual; \$30 for individual; \$35 for Senior Couple; \$40 for a family membership as of January 2022
[*Current members of RCHS need take no further action; nonmembers of RCHS are invited to join by using the membership form on the last page of this Rice Gleanings*]
4. This merger will be a one-year trial period allowing an escape option for RCHS and RCGS should this merger not be satisfactory to either organization. Finalization will occur January 14, 2022.
5. The GIG will continue to meet regularly (the schedule of which to be set by the GIG and RCHS). They will also set annual goals in concert with all RCHS committees (currently the following year's goals are set by the November RCHS Board Meeting).

6. The GIG leadership shall be continued with a 1-year appointment of a member to the RCHS Board. This member will act as liaison between GIG and RCHS. They will have full voting rights and responsibilities on the RCHS Board of Directors as spelled out in the RCHS Board Member Job Description.

[Charlene Erickson-Knox will be the liaison person with Mary Zabel as the alternate]

7. All funds of the current RCGS will be turned over to RCHS. RCHS will establish a separate checking account named "Genealogy Interest Group of RCHS". These isolated funds will be held for genealogy programs and educational purposes, guided by the GIG with the RCHS Executive Director making the final approval.
8. The GIG/RCGS will publish a final Newsletter to its members as to the rationale for this merger. Following that final newsletter, if the GIG wish, they may submit a 2 to 4 page stand-alone newsletter that will be inserted into the RCHS quarterly newsletter, or they may contribute an article to be incorporated into RCHS quarterly newsletter. GIG will notify the RCHS of their plans to contribute either an insert or an article no less than one month before the RCHS writing deadline of the newsletter to which they plan to contribute. RCHS will notify the GIG of the writing Deadlines at the beginning of each year.
9. The holdings of the RCGS Library will be transferred to the RCHS. These holdings will be inventoried by RCGS/GIG volunteers as a part of the transfer process. The collection will be held intact at RCHS until the end of the probationary year after which the collection will be integrated into the RCHS collection. Any duplicates will be offered to the Northfield Historical Society for their collection and use. All inquiries regarding family history questions will be addressed to the Rice County Historical Society.
10. Either the RCHS or the GIG of Rice County may request a revision to this merger at any time. After the completion of the one-year trial period, if neither party requests to terminate the agreement, this agreement will become permanent.

Note from Mary Zabel

I wish to express my greatest thank you to all who have hung in there for the duration of our Genealogy Society! Most of the Societies, of which there are few, struggle to maintain members and direction for the future. Most recently we have found our single purpose being the education of persons interested in searching out their family history. There are a number of formats available on-line that make this process easy. By joining in with the Rice County Historical Society as an Interest Group, we think we have found our way to share our funds in the best way. Again, thank you!

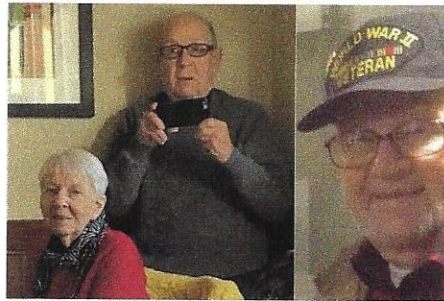
Thank You from Our Society

Mary Zabel has been the President of the Rice County Genealogical Society since 2018 and our secretary since 2014. Her enthusiasm and dedication have kept our group going. During her time as President, her leadership has led the society to offer two sets of Genealogy Workshops for the community, and many fine programs for our Society meetings. She also contributed many excellent interesting articles to "Rice Gleanings" We thank her!

In addition, we thank our most recent Treasurer Noreen Giefer and the Program Co-Chairs Sue Garwood and Kathy Ness!

In Fond Memory of Charles “Chuck” DeMann (1925-2022)

We note the passing of former member and Treasurer, Charles “Chuck” DeMann, at the age of 96 on January 6, 2022. He was always friendly with a big smile and had a wealth of knowledge and many stories to share about the people and history of the area. He was a proud WW II Veteran. He is survived by wife Audrey (who was our President for many years), four sons and their families.



Audrey and Chuck DeMann

See: Rice Gleanings Fall 2016 Issue #45 page 2 “The DeMann Shoes” by Chuck DeMann

A Little History of the Rice County Genealogical Society Officers

from 1982-2021

Presidents: Ed Durand, Alice Moriarity, Alice Nadeau, Luanna Bauer, Betty Jane Goold,
Veronica Grant, Audrey DeMann, David Madole, Paul Fonstad, Mary Zabel

Vice Presidents: Lois Taylor, Luanna Bauer, Veronica Grant, Audrey DeMann, Arlene Williams

Secretaries: Luana Bauer, Arline Eiler, Carolyn Wille, Harriet Hamann, Dorothy Herkenratt,
Mary Zabel

Treasurers: Edith Hurlbut Carolyn Wille, Audrey DeMann, Dorothy Herkenratt, Chuck Demann,
Noreen Giefer

Program Chairs: Sue Garwood, Kathy Ness

Cemeteries: Ed Durand, John Dalby

Rice Gleanings Newsletter: Luanna Bauer, Caroline Wille, Veronica Grant, Arlene Williams,
Jeff Kindseth, John Dalby, Jan Dalby, Betty Goold, Alice Nadeau,
Dorothy Herkenratt, Ariel Butler, Harriet Berg

Earliest Records of the Northfield Genealogy Club 1979-1983

While helping in the move of the RCGS books from Northfield to Faribault on 13 Jan 2022 I came across a book I had not previously looked at. It was a 3-ring black notebook labeled Northfield Genealogy Club. The Club's name changed to Northfield Genealogical Society, then Northfield-Rice County Genealogical Society and then just Rice County Genealogical Society.

The earliest record was a hand written note from the 20 Sept 1979 meeting. In addition to twelve members present, there were four quests, 2 from Faribault and 2 from Port Angeles, Washington. The meeting was a round table discussion (topic not listed).

The next meeting was on 18 Oct 1979; treasury report of \$16. Dues were \$5, to be paid by Dec 31. Thirteen people were present to hear Mrs. Moe's talk of her 21-day tour of France, Switzerland and Germany. A highlight was a visit to her ancestors' farm homestead built in 1793.

1980: the group called themselves the Northfield Genealogical Society and had 29 members. Old Health records through 1904 were being typed and indexed.

Over the summer, under guidance of Ed Durand, members were visiting and inventorying Rice County cemeteries.

When visiting the North Grove Cemetery, Mr. Hanson, the caretaker there for almost 50 years helped them and also opened the church and shared a lot of history of the church and area. Before 1905, services were held regularly and the Genealogy Society members were delighted to see the church's old organ, a Tryber & Sweetland made in Chicago 26 Feb 1892 and purchased 9 Feb 1893. The church had a charming Baptismal Font with a china bowl inside. The building was heated by a Jewett & Root Stove Workers Stove made in Buffalo, N. Y. in 1861. Additional note was made of the chandelier and the walnut benches.

1981: Cemetery inventories were continued.

Various members of the Northfield Genealogical Club [*sic*] and the Josiah Edson Chapter of the DAR indexed all early birth records of the Northfield area since 1854

A vote was taken to make the Northfield Historical Society their permanent home and pay them \$5/mo.

Decision was made to publish a newsletter for the Northfield Genealogical Society. The name selected was "Rice Gleanings". Other suggestions were "Jesse James Journal", "Adminicle" and "Wild Rice". The logo on the letterhead will have the State of Minnesota with rice pointing to Rice County.

1982: Dues increased to \$7 per person and \$9 per couple.

A project was started to put the information from the cemetery inventories on 3x5 index cards.

[*The Index Cards, as of 2022, are stored in three archival boxes, part of the RCGS library holdings*]

The first "Rice Gleanings" was published in Feb or March 1982 [*no known copy survives in the Society's holdings*]

The cemetery inventory visits continued over summer and fall.

"The microfilming project we are undertaking with the co-operation of the Gen. Soc. of Utah was discussed and progress was noted as being made but the going was slow."

1983: Meetings began alternating between the Rice County Historical Society Museum in Faribault and the Northfield Historical Society Museum in Northfield.

A microfilming camera will be available in March for the project

Cemeteries Visited (listed in the meeting minutes 1980-1983)

North Grove Cemetery, Cannon City, Township on highway 3, 240 graves, 100 are marked, earliest stone 1869
Fox Lake Cemeteries
Nerstrand Cemetery
Evangelical United (Brethren) Cemetery
Hofdahl Cemetery, Richland Township
An Abandoned Cemetery in Richland Township
Methodist Cemetery Holdon, Kenyon, Goodhue County
Prairieville United Methodist Church Cemetery
Solon Lutheran Cemetery, Webster Township (section 9)
German Union Cemetery, Forest Township (section 5)
Danish Lutheran Cemetery (section 1)
Trebon Czech Cemetery, Shieldsville Township
St Patrick's Irish Catholic Cemetery, Shieldsville Township
Warsaw Cemetery, Warsaw Township
Concordia Cemetery, Morristown
Holy Trinity Cemetery, Veseli, Wheatland Township
Woodman Cemetery, Glynview Trail, Faribault
Groveland Cemetery, Dundas
Calvary Cemetery, Northfield
Northfield Cemetery, Northfield

In addition to the meeting minutes in the 3-ring notebook, two missing early Rice Gleanings were found.;
Winter 1982 volume 4
Spring 1983.

The following is from Page 2 Rice Gleanings, Spring 1983, co-editors Luana Deney Bauer and Carolyn Wille
Preservation of Records

"Our potential microfilming project in cooperation with G.S.U. has yielded many surprises. We have heard of lost, burned and mutilated privately held records. One town clerk kept the town records in a desk in a garage until the pigs got out and ate them. One cemetery board recently purchased copies of our N-RCGS inventory because it is now the best records of old burials that they can find. Some family-owned mortuary records are not to be found.

Many churches burned with all their records; while traveling ministers took their records with them. Who, for example would look for Morristown (Tabor Church) records in the Nerstrand United Methodist records?

We have also encountered record custodians who do not see the value of good records, old or new. They have a disregard for their present and future potential value. We must offer good reasons why preservation of these records is so very important- -such as, family medical records proof of age, parentage, or residence. etc.

Medical histories of families are becoming more important with the scientific study of hereditary disease and genetic engineering. In some cases, such as osteo-genesis imperfecta (brittle bones), a study of previous generation infant deaths is needed from both parents. One 96-year-old lady needed a local birth record recently in order to sell some real estate and sought outside help when the courthouse did not appear to have her birth record. Another approaching Social Security age found that her birth was not recorded either, the church with her baptism records had been destroyed, and her personal records had been destroyed by flood. She had a problem!

We cannot stress enough the importance of preserving all records, vital or secondary, to help people such as these as well as furthering our genealogies."

The 1950 U. S. Census

The 1950 U. S. Census will be released to the public by the National Archives on Friday April 1, 2022. No Name Index will be available for many months. A massive group of volunteers will begin the Indexing Project on that date to make the images searchable. The Index will be free. It is being done differently than previous indexes – it will be using a computer to initially read the handwriting and volunteers will then review and correct.

If you are interested in volunteering go to familysearch.org

There is an article titled “How Indexing the 1950 Census will be Different” by Jason Wright, January 2022 - see familysearch.org/en/blog/indexing-1950-census

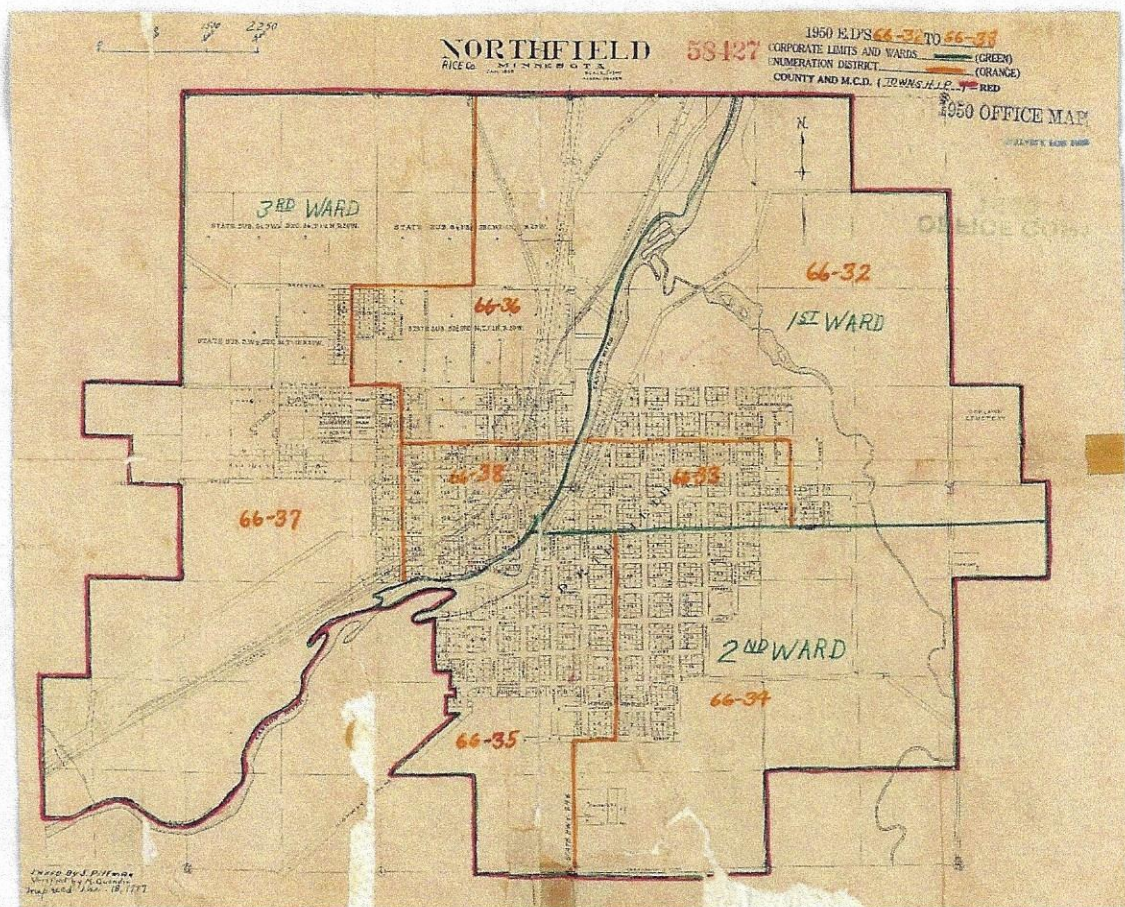
Ancestry.com has an interesting short video about training the computer to read the census handwriting -see ancestry.com/c/1950-census click on Handwriting recognition and Watch the clip

For help to search the census before the name index is available go to stevemorse.org click on Census - here are just a few of the articles for the 1950 Census

Getting Ready for the 1950 Census Searching without a Name Index

1950 Tutorial Quiz: How to Access the 1950 Census in One Step

1940-1950 ED Maps: Viewing ED Maps in One Step (map below was found using this)



This is the final Newsletter of the Rice County Genealogical Society

Rice County Historical Society
1814 NW 2nd Ave
Faribault, MN 55021

Rice County Historical Society Membership Form



Rice County Historical Society
1814 NW Second Avenue
Faribault, MN 55021

**Support Rice County History-
Become a Member!**

- | | |
|--|----------|
| ☐ Senior Individual | \$25.00 |
| ☐ Senior Couple | \$35.00 |
| ☐ Individual | \$35.00 |
| ☐ Family | \$40.00 |
| ☐ Supporter | \$55.00 |
| ☐ Contributor | \$100.00 |
| ☐ Patron | \$250.00 |

Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone: _____